The additional fleet will increase the carrying capacity of CIWTC by 4.97 lakh tonnes per annum. Apart from improving the financial viability of CIWTC, the acquisition of new vessels will augment IWT services to carry essential commodities to North-Eastern Region. It will also help to introduce river services between Haldia-Patna on the National Waterway (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly).

Death and disability among children

1795. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNICEF has reported that the time has come to put an end to the neglect of children;

(b) whether according to the report 40,000 young children die everyday and for millions more malnourished, blinded, suffering from brain damaged and are disabled;

(c) whether it has suggested to Government of India to take number of measures; and

(d) if so, whether Government have examined the report and what are the measures being considered by Government to ensure safe-guard the interests of young children during the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The measures suggested by UNICEF in the report are for the World as a whole. To safeguard the interest of children, Government of India have already taken steps in the field of immunisation, promotion of breast-feeding, proper weaning practices, Oral rehydration in diarrhoea, growth monitoring and birth spacing as suggested by UNICEF in the on going health programmes and in ICDS projects run by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Unsatisfactory telephones in Calcutta

1796. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the reasons for the highest number of average dead telephones in Calcutta are the ageing telephone exchanges and unsatisfactory performances of Penta Conta crossbar exchanges;

(b) if so, details of efforts made to improve the performances of telephone by installing better technology; and

(c) what is the amount of expenditure incurred for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. The main reasons for dead/faulty lines in Calcutta Telephones are cable faults and thefts.

(b) Modern/better technology is being inducted in Calcutta Telephones by way of electronic exchanges, microwave transmission systems, optical fibre system and computers.

(c) The amount of money spent for replacement of exchanges and installing microwave systems between 1980-81 to 1984-85 was Rs. 35.5 crores.

Clearance of waiting list for new telephone connections

1797. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India had advised the Calcutta Telephone Authorities to provide new connections to the applicants as the effort to clear the waiting list was very slow, being the lowest in the country;